



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2014

File No. 106

Senate Bill No. 124

Senate, March 25, 2014

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER SOCIAL WORKERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 20-195n of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2014*):

4 (b) An applicant for licensure as a master social worker shall: (1)
5 Hold a master's degree from a social work program accredited by the
6 Council on Social Work Education or a social work program in
7 candidacy for accreditation by said council or, if educated outside the
8 United States or its territories, have completed an educational program
9 deemed equivalent by the council; and (2) pass the masters level
10 examination of the Association of Social Work Boards or any other
11 examination prescribed by the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	20-195n(b)
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PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	approx. 6,000	approx. 10,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a General Fund (GF) revenue gain of approximately \$6,000 in FY 15 and approximately \$10,000 in FY 16 associated with an increase in Master Social Worker (MSW) applicants for licensure, licensure renewal and related fees. This increase is anticipated due to allowing individuals holding a master's degree from a social work program in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education to apply to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for MSW licensure.

Should 30 graduates of a social work program in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education seek MSW licensure in FY 15 (with five individuals in each fiscal year seeking temporary licensure at \$50), and assuming that 10% of licensees will need to renew their licenses in FY 15 (renewals occur in the licensees' birth months), GF revenue of approximately \$6,000 is anticipated in FY 15.¹ Should 30 more graduates seek licensure in FY 16 and 30 licensees renew their licenses that fiscal year, GF revenue of approximately \$10,000 is anticipated in FY 16. DPH will not incur a cost to

¹The University of Saint Joseph is anticipated to complete candidacy for accreditation status requirements by 10/1/14 with approximately 60 students graduating from its MSW program by 10/1/16.

accommodate the licensure of these additional individuals, which are estimated to increase overall MSW licensure applications by less than 3%.

Background

PA 10-38 authorized the creation of a new MSW licensure category within DPH. The FY 13 Revised Budget included funding of \$48,723 in Personal Services account funding for a Processing Technician (and associated funding in other DPH accounts of \$4,277) for the partial implementation of this licensure category. PA 12-1 DSS, the deficit mitigation bill, subsequently reduced DPH Personal Services account funding by \$83,862. The Processing Technician was not filled. The FY 14 and FY 15 Biennial Budget provided annualized funding of \$183,832 in FY 14 and \$195,851 in FY 15 and three additional positions to support the full implementation of MSW licensure. As of 3/12/14, MSW licensure has not been implemented by DPH. According to DPH, implementation should occur before the end of FY 14.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of individuals holding a master's degree from a social work program in candidacy for accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education that apply to DPH for MSW licensure.

Sources: 2/28/14 Public Hearing Testimony

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 124*****AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER SOCIAL WORKERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows U.S.-trained applicants to apply for master social worker licensure if they have a master's degree from a social work program seeking accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education. Current law requires applicants to have a master's degree from a program already accredited by the council. By law, applicants must also pass an examination.

PA 10-38 established, within available appropriations, a licensure program for master level social workers, which the Department of Public Health has not yet fully implemented.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 2 (03/10/2014)